UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.105/PV.352
24 June 1991

ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Graz, Austria,
on Tuesday, 28 May 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- Organization of work
- Statement by the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division
- General exchange of views

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to remind delegations that those intending to speak under agenda item 5 should submit their names to the Secretariat as soon as possible, because I intend to close the speakers' list at 5 p.m. today.

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF OF THE OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS DIVISION

The CHAIRMAN: Before we continue the general exchange of views, I invite the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division to make a statement on the Division's work.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division): In response to requests by delegations at past sessions of the Committee, I should like to provide a brief review of the work of the Outer Space Affairs Division over the past year and of the documents that are before the Committee.

Concerning the resources of the Outer Space Affairs Division, I would note that as a result of the retrenchment programme and the retirement of a senior staff member of the Division, we have one fewer Professional staff member this year, following the loss of a General Service staff member last year. In accordance with the priorities expressed by members of the Committee, the staff exclusively dedicated to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) have been maintained, and the staff reduction has been applied to the Committee Services, Reports and Research Section. While this will impose an additional burden on the remaining staff and will necessarily somewhat reduce the responsiveness of the Division to requests for services from Member States, the essential services to the Committee and its

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

Subcommittees will be assured. The increasing use of computers for office automation and information processing is enabling the Division to provide new information services, which should allow the Division to maintain its overall productivity despite the cuts.

Even with these cuts, the ability of the United Nations to assist Member States in the peaceful uses of outer space is limited primarily by financial and technical resources, particularly in the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the UNISPACE 82 recommendations. As I have noted in the past, in addition to the staff fully dedicated to the Programme on Space Applications, all other Division staff also support the Programme on Space Applications as required, and all of the financial resources available to the Division are devoted to the Programme on Space Applications, primarily for the participation of developing countries in Programme activities. I might note that the regular budget allocations for the Programme have remained at essentially the same level for the last several years.

Despite the very limited regular budget resources available, the Division has been able to maintain an effective Programme on Space Applications thanks to generous voluntary contributions. The regular budget resources have been used as seed money to obtain support from elsewhere, including Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations. I should like particularly to note the generous support provided by the European Space Agency and the host countries that have provided local facilities, transportation and accommodation for Programme activities. On average, the regular budget provides less than one third of the total costs of the training courses, seminars and workshops organized under the Programme.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

If further financial and technical resources were to be made available, the Division, with its existing staff, could provide further support for education, training and technical advisory services for the benefit of developing countries. The urgent needs and the priorities of the developing countries for further assistance have been described in the report of UNISPACE 82, in the survey of the needs of developed countries, and in the reports of the meetings held under the Programme on Space Applications. The Division, as requested by the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, is now conducting a review of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and its follow-up activities and will be submitting a report on the subject to the Subcommittee at its next session.

The report on the 1990 activities of the Programme on Space Applications, and information on the 1991 activities now being carried out were submitted to and reviewed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as indicated in its report. The proposed activities for 1992 were reviewed by the Subcommittee and recommended for approval. Subject to the approval of this Committee and the General Assembly, planning for the 1992 activities is now under way. The staff of the Division have made great efforts to ensure the effective planning and organization of these activities, and I should like particularly to acknowledge the hard work that the Expert on Space Applications, Mr. Abiodun, has done in coordinating this programme. He will report in more detail later during this session.

An important priority for the Division, and particularly for the Programme on Space Applications, for the next two years will be the participation of the United Nations in the activities being planned for International Space Year (ISY), 1992. That year, I might note, also marks the

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tenth anniversary of UNISPACE 82, which provided an expanded mandate for the Programme on Space Applications. Representatives may recall that the General Assembly in 1989 endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the United Nations, through the Programme on Space Applications, should play a meaningful role in ISY, through voluntary contributions by Member States and without any impact on the regular budget or the existing programme of work. At its 1990 session the General Assembly, in resolution 45/72, urged Member States and international organizations to consider supporting the efforts of the United Nations in connection with ISY.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

On the basis of proposals by Member States and the Committee's recommendation that in the activities use should be made of the training and educational capabilities of the Programme on Space Applications, the Division has been developing a programme of activities that the United Nations would undertake, as part of ISY, with an emphasis on promoting the participation of developing countries in ISY.

The proposed programme for the participation of the United Nations in International Space Year was submitted to the Subcommittee in a booklet entitled "Guide to the Participation of the United Nations in the International Space Year - 1992". This booklet was circulated to Member States in December 1990, along with a note verbale from the Secretary-General inviting States to cooperate in and support these activities. A revised version of the booklet with information on additional planned activities has been prepared and is being circulated at this session.

While the proposed activities, as indicated, are based on voluntary contributions already offered by Member States, international organizations and other sources, additional contributions will be required if other proposed activities are to be realized. The Division is in contact with other Member States, international organizations and others further to develop the plans for these activities and to explore possibilities for additional activities on the basis of voluntary contributions from the various available sources. Plans for a number of other actions, including the issuance of a United Nations commemorative stamp and an exhibition in the public lobby of United Nations Headquarters, are being developed as part of other ongoing United Nations functions.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

In order to assist the United Nations in planning and organizing ISY activities without affecting the regular budget or the existing work programme, the Government of Japan has provided to the Outer Space Affairs Division, as a voluntary contribution, the services of two staff members: Mr. Koji Saeki from the National Space Development Agency of Japan and Ms. Yumiko Murakami, previously working with the United Nations Development Programme. They will provide valuable assistance to the Division in its work on ISY activities. I should like to express our appreciation to the Government of Japan for this very valuable contribution.

In the context of International Space Year, I would also note that in 1992 the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will be hosted by the Government of Brazil, and the Division will be considering ways in which its activities could complement the work of that Conference, particularly in light of the similarity between the topic of the Conference and the theme of International Space Year: Mission to Planet Earth. In this connection, following a request by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Committee will receive later this week or early next week from the secretariat of the Conference a report on the status of preparations for that Conference.

An area in which the Division has been working to provide additional services to Member States has been the International Space Information Service. The establishment of this Service was recommended by UNISPACE 82 and decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/90 in 1982. In view of the available resources, however, rather limited progress has been possible towards the implementation of the Service. The Division is now in the process of developing a modest computer information processing capability, with the

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objective of improving our ability to respond to requests for information from Member States.

This year for the second time we published and submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee a collection of selected technical papers from the seminars, workshops and training courses of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The papers in this collection were selected primarily on the basis of their general interest to developing countries. We plan to publish such collections annually.

As part of the International Space Information Service, in response to a request from the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's Working Group of the Whole, the Division prepared and submitted to the Subcommittee a report on the "Economic aspects of strengthening and expanding national and regional databanks and establishing an international space information service as a coordinating centre".

Also at the request of the Working Group of the Whole, a list of experts in space technology and applications, based on information provided by Member States, was submitted to the Committee at its last session, and an addendum was submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee this year. At the request of the Working Group of the Whole, an integrated and updated version of that list is being prepared for submission to the Subcommittee at its next session.

We are also now working on updating previous directories of information on space activities of international interest in order to have up-to-date versions available for ISY in 1992. These will include the publication of new editions of Space Activities of the United Nations and International Organizations; the Directory of Education, Training, Research and Fellowship

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Opportunities in Space Science, Technology and Applications; and the Directory of Information Systems on Space Science and Technology.

Sample copies of the reports produced as part of the International Space Information Service and other documents prepared by the Outer Space Affairs Division will be on display near the entrance to the conference room. Interested representatives can indicate the documents they would like to receive along with their names and addresses, and copies of these documents will be sent to them from New York.

The Working Group of the Whole, as indicated in its report annexed to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, requested the Division to prepare a number of studies for consideration by the Subcommittee at its next session, some of which call for information from Member States. As recommended by the Committee at its last session, I would suggest that the Secretariat again invite Member States to submit reports on their national space activities, including, in response to the requests from the Working Group of the Whole, information on those activities that could be the subject of greater international cooperation, and information on the resources and technological capabilities of States for the promotion of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Information received from Member States since the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee session is contained in document A/AC.105/470/Add.2, which has been prepared for this session.

Following the report prepared for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee last year on the implementation of the UNISPACE 82 recommendations, the Division this year submitted a report on implementation of the UNISPACE 82 recommendations by other organizations of the United

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Nations system and other international organizations, based on information provided by those organizations. Additional information received since the Subcommittee's session is submitted in document A/AC.105/475/Add.1.

At the request of the Working Group of the Whole, the Outer Space Affairs Division also prepared and submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee two technical studies: a study on the Applications of Space Technology to Flood Monitoring and Control and a review of Upper Atmosphere Studies for Weather and Environment Monitoring. Additional technical studies, as proposed by the Working Group of the Whole at its last session, will be submitted to the Subcommittee at its next session.

As requested by the Committee at its last session, the Secretariat has prepared a study on the spin-off benefits of space activities. This study, which has been distributed, was based on information from Member States and was reviewed by outside experts in the field. The study, which is before the Committee in document A/AC.105/486, was prepared by Mr. Lala and Mr. Chipman, whose help I wish to acknowledge.

For the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee this year, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) organized a Symposium on the theme designated by the Subcommittee, namely "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries". COSPAR also arranged a special presentation on progress in the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme. In addition, a number of Member States and international organizations arranged special presentations on the special theme or on other agenda items.

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Recognizing that these presentations contain much interesting and valuable information on the latest developments in space applications of interest to the international community, the Division has again prepared a summary of those presentations, which is being distributed to the Committee in document A/AC.105/459. I should like to acknowledge the work of Mr. Lala and Mr. Chipman in preparing this report as well.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express the Division's appreciation of the great efforts that have been made by IAF and COSPAR to obtain the services of interesting and knowledgeable speakers for the Symposium.

I should like to mention briefly the Division's cooperation with other international organizations. The coordination of space activities within the United Nations system is carried out through the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities. That Meeting serves for the exchange of information on planned space-related activities in order to prevent redundant or conflicting activities and for the planning of joint and complementary activities, including activities to be organized as part of International Space Year. The 1990 session of the Meeting took place at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters in Rome, and a review of the activities to be undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system for 1991, 1992 and future years was submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The 1991 session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will be held at the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) in Geneva in September this year, and the report of that meeting will be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee next year.

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The Outer Space Affairs Division has had particularly close cooperation with COSPAR and IAF, and I should like to express the Division's appreciation for the support provided by those organizations. Again this year COSPAR submitted its annual report on progress in space research and IAF submitted its report on highlights in space technology and applications to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. These reports were prepared with the assistance of many international experts, and constitute authoritative and up-to-date reviews of the most important developments in the field. In view of their importance, plans are being developed to combine these two excellent reports in the future into a single publication for wider distribution.

I would also mention that the annual Congresses of the IAF and the biennial meetings of COSPAR include sessions organized in cooperation with the United Nations on topics of particular interest to developing countries.

In conjunction with the 1991 IAF Congress in Montreal, the United Nations, the Government of Canada and the IAF are organizing a Workshop on Space Technologies for Development, for the benefit of participants from developing countries. The Division is also working with COSPAR and IAF to organize a workshop for the benefit of developing countries as part of the joint COSPAR/IAF World Space Congress to be held in Washington in 1992 in the context of International Space Year.

The Division has also enjoyed close cooperation with the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT) and in particular the European Space Agency, which has given substantial financial and technical support for

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the activities of the Space Applications Programme, and I should like to express the Division's appreciation for their support.

The Secretary-General's proposed budget for the biennium 1991-1993 has been issued in document A/46/6. The proposed budget has been reviewed by the Committee on Programme and Coordination and will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during its current sessions in New York. The final budget is to be considered and adopted by the General Assembly at the end of this year.

Before closing, I should like to express my thanks to the Government of Austria, and in particular to you, Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner, for assistance in making the arrangements for this session. We have also received very competent assistance from the United Nations Office in Vienna, in particular from Mr. Friedrich Herold and his staff, who coordinated the arrangements from Vienna. Information on the services available to representatives has been circulated.

I would remind representatives that our Austrian hosts will be organizing a number of receptions and other activities, so any social activities offered by other delegations should be coordinated with the activities planned by our hosts.

The work of the interpreters will be greatly facilitated if delegations provide the texts of statements to the conference officer as far in advance of delivery of the statement as possible. The interpretation of technical material poses particular problems for the interpreters, and delegations that will make technical presentations are urged to provide any available texts as early as possible to assist the interpreters.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

This has been a brief review of the work of the Outer Space Affairs Division over the past year. As always, the staff of the Division stand ready to assist the work of the Committee and its member delegations in any way we can to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (continued)

Mr. SADEK (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation congratulates you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of the Committee. We wish you every success in guiding its activities and achieving the purposes for which it was established. We regard your election as a sign of appreciation of your eminent diplomatic skills and a tribute to the remarkable, active role played by Austria in contemporary international relations.

My country's delegation would also like to put on record our appreciation of the work of the outgoing Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Peter Jankowitsch, for his remarkable efforts to promote the Committee's work and enhance its important role within the United Nations system as an international organ concerned with the peaceful uses of outer space.

We listened with interest to Mr. Jankowitsch's comprehensive statement on the Committee's activities since the last session and its significant achievements in the peaceful uses of outer space. We agree about the importance of his assessment in that invaluable statement, and reiterate Egypt's agreement with was said by Mr. Jasentuliyana, Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division, in his comprehensive statement, regarding the needs of the developing countries. We repeat Egypt's interest in contributing effectively to the Committee's activities and helping it to achieve the purpose for which it was established - to make available the peaceful uses of outer space to all countries, and particularly the developing countries.

That interest stems from three convictions. First, all countries live under the same roof, notwithstanding their respective sovereignties and territorial jurisdictions. Secondly, the benefits of the peaceful uses of outer space have become more tangible in the daily lives of all peoples, even

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though the benefits accruing to the developing countries through those uses are not on a par with the benefits going to the developed countries. However, some developing countries, whether members of the Committee or non-members, have achieved substantial progress in the peaceful uses of outer space. Thirdly, in Egypt there are many aspects of economic and social development, such as water resources, agriculture, minerals and communications, in which we can make great progress through the peaceful uses of outer space. For that triple conviction has not only prompted us to contribute effectively to the Committee's work, but also led us to set up a national committee on outer space, composed of representatives of all national organs, agencies and centres in Egypt concerned with outer space affairs. In this context, we wish to take the opportunity to introduce this national committee, acquaint representatives with its various activities and enhance its contacts with counterpart committees in other Member States. Thus international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space will be continuous, particularly during the periods between sessions of this Committee or of the other international committees concerned with outer space.

Egypt's membership of this Committee may be viewed as part of our Arab and African affiliation; many Arab and African States participate enthusiastically in the Committee's activities. The League of Arab States has made concrete progress on guidelines for cooperation between Arab countries on the peaceful uses of outer space. It has established a regional arrangement of Arab satellites - Arab Satellite Communications Organization (ARABSAT) - and a regional centre in Cairo for remote sensing by satellites. Egypt is also making great strides in strengthening regional cooperation within the context of the Organization of African Unity in order to promote the peaceful uses of outer space in the best interests of the African peoples, which

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urgently need the application of these uses in all fields of development. This will enable them to overcome the pressing problems, such as drought and desertification, facing the African States.

During the Committee's last session one delegation questioned whether there was a lack of interest in the Committee's work. We believe there should be a steadily increasing interest in the Committee's activities, particularly since we are now on the threshold of International Space Year, which is of special interest to the relevant institutions and organs in Egypt. In this context, we believe our work should be carried out in three directions aimed at strengthening the Committee's role.

The first need is to consolidate the contacts and links between the Committee and other organs within the United Nations system concerned with the peaceful uses of outer space, making those contacts more regular and more frequent. We find no duplication of competence; it is a logical consequence of the diversity of the peaceful uses of outer space and their interdependence.

Secondly, we should achieve steady and balanced progress in the work of the two Subcommittees - the Technical and Scientific Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee - which are the two pillars of the Committee. Any progress achieved in the work of one Subcommittee would stimulate similar progress in the work of the other. The Legal Subcommittee should finalize a legal framework for the peaceful uses of outer space commensurate with the scientific progress reflected in the activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Thirdly, we should strengthen the resources of the Outer Space Affairs Division, taking into account the vast area it covers. It could hence play its major role in providing the Member States of the United Nations with the

(Mr. Sadek, Egypt)

relevant studies and documents that could benefit those States in their social and economic development.

In conclusion, we once again pledge our full cooperation with you, Mr. Chairman, the other officers of the Committee, participating delegations and the secretariat in order to achieve the desired objectives of this session.

Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria): Congratulating you, Sir, on assuming the chairmanship of this Committee presents me with a difficult dilemma indeed. The reasons are at least three-fold. First, you yourself, as President of the Security Council for the month of March, instituted what others have referred to as the "Hohenfellner rule", namely, to desist from excessive and repetitive congratulations. Although this rule has so far been largely honoured in its breach, I do - to a certain extent - feel bound by it.

The second reason for my dilemma is that for more than six years I have worked with you closely, sometimes painfully so, on matters falling into the purview of this Committee - international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Consequently, I am probably in a unique position to testify to the dedication, and indeed the enthusiasm, with which you have devoted yourself to the task of first restoring consensus in the Committee and then embarking upon the course of revitalizing its Subcommittees, thereby laying the groundwork for steady progress.

Thirdly, for obvious reasons, I must not be obsequious. However, I feel confident I can speak for all of us in saying that the successes achieved over the past few years - the adoption of the set of principles on remote sensing, the agreement on the new agenda item in the Legal Subcommittee and the restoration of a climate of cooperation and good will in general, to name but a few - are to no small extent due to your unwavering efforts.

It is therefore perhaps ironic, Mr. Chairman, that it should be in the year in which you assume your new function that we have, for the first time in quite a while, very little to show for our efforts over the past few months. Let me explain.

(Mr. Freudenschuss, Austria)

When I, as Chairman of the relevant Working Group, introduced what was to become General Assembly resolution 45/72 to the Special Political Committee, there was good reason for me to state that further and potentially decisive progress was possible this year based on last year's results. I am referring here in particular to our work on nuclear power sources (NPS). The General Assembly itself, in resolution 45/72, indeed mandated us to continue the elaboration of the draft set of principles, with the explicit aim of finalizing it. Due to developments during the meetings of both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, of which everyone is aware, we have unfortunately not been able to finalize this set of principles. As representative of the country which has chaired the nuclear power sources Working Group in the Legal Subcommittee for a long time, and which has invested a great amount of time and effort, I cannot but register our serious concern. If obstacles continue to be raised with regard to questions that have already been settled, we shall run the danger of losing credibility. The work in this area has already lasted for too long. If this were to be allowed to continue, we should have no choice but to review the level and intensity of our participation.

Your predecessor, Sir, has already summed up the meetings of our two Subcommittees held earlier this year. I should therefore like to limit myself to only a few remarks. In regard to the Legal Subcommittee, we have noted with interest the new idea put forward with regard to the legal aspects of the future use of aerospace systems, and look forward to further information. The introduction of a new working non-paper on the question of the geostationary orbit was a useful development which gave hope for a constructive debate in the future.

(Mr. Freudenschuss, Austria)

Then we had the first meeting of the Working Group on the new agenda item in the Legal Subcommittee. Those of us who were involved in the long and laborious process leading up to it could not help but feel pleased to see this work finally getting off the ground. We look forward to the analytical paper to be prepared by its Chairman for the next session, summarizing the views and information submitted so far. In the meantime we shall also study carefully the working paper submitted under this item by a number of countries on "Principles regarding international cooperation in the exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes". Obviously our work in this area has only just started. In carrying it out, we shall have to find a balance between going too fast and too slow. Another balance will have to be found between attempting to regulate by law and leaving it to practice and the marketplace.

The work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, apart from the aforementioned surprise with regard to NPS, proceeded smoothly. My delegation followed with particular attention and interest the discussion concerning space and Earth environment. The Subcommittee rightly noted that there was a need for further research concerning space debris, for the development of improved technology for monitoring space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris as well as the importance of reducing the generation of such debris. Eventually issues relating to space and Earth environment will have to be addressed by this Committee.

Austria, of course, continues to support the United Nations Space Applications Programme through contributions in cash and in kind. We hope to be able shortly to communicate specifics to the Secretariat.

(Mr. Freudenschuss, Austria)

The fact that the much-improved international atmosphere has considerably facilitated our work in the last few years has already been stated repeatedly. This applies in particular to our consideration of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

Within the confines of its mandate, the Committee has been able to contribute its share to promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Jenks, in his treatise on space law, put it very well indeed when he wrote:

> "States which are at present space Powers may be apt to think of themselves too exclusively as space Powers rather than as States which may some day be affected by the space activities of others, while States which are not at present space Powers may be too apt to think of themselves as potential victims of the activities in space of others rather than as potential participants in such activities. These instinctive attitudes do not necessarily reflect the long-term interests of the States of either group. Only when they come to terms with each other will we be able to deal satisfactorily with issues at hand."

I think we have already begun to do that. Let me conclude by expressing the hope that our meeting here in Graz will be another step in this, right, direction.

Mr. INCE (Turkey): I wish to join representatives who have spoken before me in expressing satisfaction and pleasure at seeing you, Sir, elected as the new Chairman of our Committee.

This is the first time I have attended a meeting of the Committee, and therefore I have not had the pleasure in the past of working with our outgoing Chairman, Mr. Jankowitsch. I wish him good luck and success in his important new appointment.

(Mr. Ince, Turkey)

I am new to this Committee, but not so new to space business. In fact, I have been internationally active scientifically and technically in space activities for over 30 years. I therefore look forward to participating actively in the deliberations of the Committee and its two Subcommittees in the coming sessions.

As you may be aware, Mr. Chairman, Turkey has been a member and a keen participant in the Committee, and we shall remain so. Taking the opportunity of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee, I should like to brief representatives on the latest situation in my country as regards space activities, activities that we are all trying to promote here.

(Mr. Ince, Turkey)

The year 1990 saw the establishment in Turkey of a committee called UBITEK (Space Sciences and Technologies Committee) under the umbrella of the Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council (TUBITAK) to coordinate all space-related activities in the country. Universities and other public bodies and institutions such as the post and telephone service (PTT), the Broadcasting Corporation (TRT), the Mineral Research and Exploration Institutes (MTA), the Meteorological Directorate and so on, concerned with space, are all represented in the activities of UBITEK. For several years Turkey has been a member of almost all the international satellite communications agencies and a substantial user of their services, so much so in fact that last year it decided to have its own satellite communication system. Space sciences and applications are taught in several Turkish universities, and scientists and engineers participate in national and international space projects related to astronomy, communication and remote sensing. In particular, Turkey has several centres where imagery data received from such satellites as Landsat and Spot can be processed for applications ranging from agricultural crop predictions to oceanography and ecology.

The duties and areas of responsibilities of the new committee are as follows: to coordinate the needs and priorities of public and private institutions, including universities; to develop programmes and projects in line with national goals, and to implement them; to establish new facilities and institutions necessary for the achievement of the national goals; to coordinate relations with foreign research and development groups and institutions; and, finally, to function as a consultancy agency for Government and public and private institutions.

(Mr. Ince, Turkey)

UBITEK has decided that the following three "facilities" were essential for the further development of both scientific and commercial applications related to the space activities in Turkey: (1) a multi-purpose 15-metre class radio telescope, which has been named UBIRAT, and will be sensitive down to millimeter wavelengths; (2) a well-equipped national centre for remote sensing work that will be instrumental in coordinating such activities at the national level; and (3) a synthetic-aperture-radar (SAR) facility and centre for digital image processing in coordination with remote sensing research.

The telescope is being designed to be capable of use for research in such areas as: atmospheric studies; geodesic surveys and geodesy; remote sensing radio astronomy; radar astronomy; solar physics; satellite communications; satellite and small object tracking; and activities in the electrical engineering fields.

The telescope is planned to take three years to complete, and will be used by all research groups within and outside the Turkish universities and other national bodies. It is also our wish that many of the projects which we plan to undertake both scientifically and technically will be international in nature, and we shall seek a maximum degree of cooperation with research groups internationally, particularly in areas which are the main concern of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mr. HERNANDEZ BASAVE (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the delegation of Mexico, I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to preside over the work of the Committee. Your recognized diplomatic experience is a guarantee that we will conclude this session with positive results. We are certain that under your guidance important progress will be made in promoting genuine international cooperation in space. Similarly, I should like to express my delegation's gratitude to

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

Mr. Jankowitsch for his work over the past two decades as Chairman of the Committee. Moreover, my delegation would like to thank the Austrian people for the hospitality and cordiality with which they have received us. We are bound to them by close ties of friendship.

This session is taking place at a time when, despite serious and delicate crises, the international political situation continues to improve. The end of the cold war offers excellent opportunities for establishing an effective international system of peace and security. Its achievement makes it vital that progress be made concurrently in North-South relations so that growth in the developing countries can be revitalized.

The use of outer space provides excellent possibilities for international cooperation to ensure that the spin-off benefits of space activity are distributed equitably among all countries, taking special account of the needs of the developing countries. With a view to achieving that objective, it is essential for us to make an honest effort to revitalize the work of the Committee and of its two Subcommittees. With the political will of all its members, in particular of the major space Powers, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space can help to promote effective international cooperation for development. To that end, it is absolutely essential to keep outer space free from military confrontations and to halt any growing militarization.

The delegation of Mexico attaches great importance to the priority item on our agenda entitled, "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes". Its inclusion on the Committee's agenda reflects the concern of the international community to prevent an arms race in outer space. We urge all delegations to join our efforts so that under this item we will analyse the means by which we can help to ensure progress in the work of

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

the Conference on Disarmament, the sole multilateral negotiating body in disarmament.

In the United Nations system, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is the body which is primarily responsible for promoting multilateral cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space. That is why we note with great concern that there has been little progress in that Subcommittee in establishing multilateral cooperation programmes in outer space.

The Programme on Space Applications is certainly a very useful mechanism for the developing countries. The broadened mandate of that Programme has placed emphasis on in-depth training, technical assistance to States Members of the United Nations and dissemination of information on the progress achieved in space technology. Mexico feels that this is the goal of the broadened mandate. The report of the United Nations Expert on the implementation of the Programme shows the high level of professionalism with which these activities in the field of outer space are coordinated within the United Nations system. However, owing to the Programme's meagre resources, it has not adequately met the expectations placed in it by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).

Similarly, the Working Group of the Whole entrusted with assessing the implementation of the recommendations made by UNISPACE 82 has not achieved substantive results, owing to the scant interest at present being shown in their implementation. Therefore, the Working Group has had to devote its attention to those areas designed to be priorities. Most of the recommendations made at the last session refer primarily to training aspects

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

and to the exchange of experience and knowledge. That is why all countries, particularly those most competent in space matters, are requested to continue to inform the Secretary-General on an annual basis on activities in which there could be more international cooperation.

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

My delegation wishes to point out once again that apart from earmarking more funds for the necessary implementation of the Programme on Space Applications, it is important that greater political will be displayed, particularly by the great space Powers, to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the establishment of machinery that can promote effective cooperation in the space field.

The General Assembly recommendation on the establishment of regional centres for education in space science and technology is of special importance for the Government of Mexico. With respect to Latin America and the Caribbean, it is my honour to inform the Committee that my country has offered to be the headquarters of the regional centre for our region. The Mexican Communications Institute, a subsidiary of the Department of Communications and Transport, has been proposed by the Government as headquarters.

The Mexican Communications Institute serves inter alia as a link for Mexico's space activities. At present the Institute is working intensively on the technical specifications of a new satellite to be launched into orbit by the Government of Mexico to replace the present Morelos I satellite. The new satellite will cover several Latin American countries, facilitating their access to data banks through a computer network linked by the Morelos satellite with international networks.

The Mexican Communications Institute has the support of other major national institutions, in particular the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Computer Science and the University Programme for Space Research and Development of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. This guarantees an infrastructure to meet the needs of the work of the projected regional centre. Moreover, the Mexican Communications Institute is entrusted with national coordination of activities for the 1992 International Space Year.

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

With reference to international cooperation at the regional level, my delegation listened carefully to the proposal of the representative of Chile that his country host the second space conference of the Americas. This would follow up the first such conference, held at San José, Costa Rica, in 1990. The Government of Mexico played an active part in the Costa Rica conference and will, of course, participate at Santiago de Chile. We welcome the Chilean Government's invitation.

With reference to other items on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Mexican delegation expresses its support for the General Assembly's recommendation that this Committee devote greater attention to the protection of the space environment, and in particular to issues that could affect the terrestrial environment. In that context, Sweden's proposal that we begin consideration of the question of space debris is most relevant, and Mexico fully supports it. The implications of space debris for the Earth environment justify the inclusion of the item on the agenda of the Subcommittee.

Of equal importance is the 1992 consideration of the item "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year", which is the theme fixed for special attention in accordance with the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its last session.

With respect to the legal side of our work, 1991 was a year of very modest progress in the gradual development of international space law. On the one hand, negotiations on the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit remained stalled. On

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

the other hand, we trust that in this hospitable city of Graz we will be able to adopt the draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. We note with great concern that it looks like we shall have to wait for a long time for a body of law on the use of nuclear power sources for exclusively peaceful years. Our concern is increased by information in the international press on the United States plan to station a nuclear reactor in outer space for use in the strategic defence initiative.

But we trust that we shall see the necessary political will so that we can quickly complete the draft legal principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. My delegation thinks we should focus our efforts on questions of notification, safety assessment and the responsibility of the launching State in the event that a spacecraft carrying nuclear power sources re-enters the atmosphere accidentally. It is essential to agree on a definition of "launching State". We note the working paper presented by the United States delegation, but we consider that draft principle 3, adopted by consensus in 1990 in Geneva, should not be reopened to negotiations of any kind. We consider that the draft principle represents the agreement that was reached and should not be renegotiated. Nor should agreements achieved on other draft principles be reopened.

On the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all States, taking into particular account the needs of the developing countries, my delegation believes that their consideration should focus on formulating a legal framework guaranteeing all States, especially developing States, access to space science and technology and its applications so that they can develop their own capabilities in those areas.

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

Machinery and means for ensuring fair distribution of the benefits derived from space activities can be more effectively established if there are rules that strengthen and develop the scope of the principle set out in article 1 of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. With a view to achieving that objective, the delegation of Mexico, together with the delegations of Brazil and other countries, submitted a working paper at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee. This contained a proposal for a series of legal principles on international cooperation in space activities. We thank Brazil for its initiative and urge all delegations to play an active and constructive role in considering this important item.

I do not wish to conclude without expressing my delegation's concern that interest in the work of this Committee is waning. We have been unable to hasten the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and there is continued lack of interest by some space Powers in the gradual development of international space law and thus in the work of the Legal Subcommittee.

The international political situation calls for a change in attitude to strengthen the role of the United Nations in all realms. Space activities are an interesting and vast field for promoting international cooperation. It is therefore indispensable for us all to make every effort to prevent the growing militarization of outer space, which is a basic condition for the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the economic and social benefit of all peoples.

Mr. SATOH (Japan): At the outset, Sir, I should like to express my delegation's sincere congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We wish you every success in carrying out your responsibilities and are confident that, under your able leadership, the Committee will make substantive progress on the matters before it. I should also like to express our deep appreciation to Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch for the valuable contribution he made over his 20 years as Chairman of the Committee.

My delegation is delighted that the thirty-fourth session of the Committee is being held in this lovely Austrian city, and would like to express its thanks to the Government of Austria and to the city of Graz for their gracious hospitality as well as for the excellent facilities and services which they have provided us.

I cannot help but note, as have others, that this year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the first manned space flight, an event that opened the door for the extraordinary advances in space activities in the years since. I sincerely hope that our discussions at this session will further promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space as we look ahead to equally extraordinary advances as we approach the twenty-first century.

I should now like to outline the position of my delegation on some of the agenda items before us. First, with regard to agenda item 6 - "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes" - while my delegation is fully aware of the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space, we believe it should be recalled that disarmament questions fall within the competence of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference

(Mr. Satoh, Japan)

on Disarmament. In our view, the best way for this Committee to contribute to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes is to further promote international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space. It should do so by revitalizing its work and that of its Subcommittees. In this respect, it would be advisable to set up a working group to review systematically the working methods and procedures of the main Committee and Subcommittees.

Secondly, as to agenda item 7 - "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee" - and agenda item 9 - "Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82)" - my delegation is gratified by the international cooperative efforts that are under way in the fields of space science, remote sensing, telecommunications and other space applications. The scope and magnitude of those efforts became clear during the last meeting of the Subcommittee.

In the light of such international cooperation, my delegation believes that the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 continue to be relevant, and that their implementation is an ongoing and important task. One of the most important elements of the recommendations is the emphasis on the role of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in the international dissemination of the benefits accrued from the exploration and utilization of outer space. My delegation notes with satisfaction that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications has been actively pursued by the Outer Space Affairs Division and hopes that renewed impetus will be given to the Programme through the activities of International Space Year in 1992.

(Mr. Satoh, Japan)

During the last session of the Subcommittee many delegations expressed deep concern over the problem of space debris, which poses a serious threat to space activities as well as to the environment. My delegation supports General Assembly resolution 45/72, which stresses that Member States must pay greater attention to the problem of space debris and calls for the continuation of national research in this area. In this respect, my delegation shares the view that the question of space debris should be included in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, so as to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views and information accrued from national research. However, it is premature for us to engage in discussions on regulatory measures in the Legal Subcommittee while many scientific and technical aspects of space debris are unknown.

Thirdly, regarding agenda item 8 - "Report of the Legal Subcommittee" - my delegation is pleased to see that this year the Working Group on the new item, outer space benefits, has commenced its substantive work under the chairmanship of Mr. Raimundo Gonzalez, representative of Chile, and has recorded productive discussions resulting in the submission of a working paper by several delegations. We hope that this important new item will be the focus of a lively and constructive exchange of views based on concrete information on the existing national legal frameworks and international agreements.

Although this year it was unable to make concrete progress on the drawing up of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space, the Subcommittee did enrich its understanding of different aspects of several draft principles. My delegation hopes that, based on this year's

(Mr. Satoh, Japan)

discussions, the Subcommittee will continue to build on the progress made and will reach a consensus on the entire set of draft principles as early as possible.

My delegation welcomes the endorsement of the initiative of international scientific organizations and bodies in designating 1992 as International Space Year. The Year, coming 10 years after UNISPACE 82, will help to ensure that the benefits gained from the exploration and utilization of outer space are extended to all countries, particularly the developing countries. Determined to participate actively in the Year, the Government of Japan is planning a series of activities in close cooperation with the United Nations and other relevant organizations.

I should now like briefly to outline some of the activities which Japan has proposed thus far. As part of its contribution to the United Nations International Space Year activities, the Japanese Government will co-sponsor the United Nations Regional Workshop on Space Technology for Resources Development and Environment Management, to be held in Quito, Ecuador, for the benefit of Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The Workshop, which will be attended by technical programme managers, is expected to make a practical contribution to resource development and environmental protection in the ECLAC region. Japan will also participate in International Space Year programmes for public education, such as the space exhibition at United Nations Headquarters, the production of educational video programmes and a national essay contest.

In addition, Japan is planning a number of International Space Year programmes on its own initiative. For example, Japan will host an Asia-Pacific International Space Year conference on earth/space science and

(Mr. Satoh, Japan)

technology, to be held in Tokyo in the autumn of 1992 with the participation of approximately 1,000 experts from countries in the region.

In the field of remote sensing, the Japanese Government will invite experts from developing countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East to participate in a seminar on the utilization of remote-sensing technology for diaster prevention, and a training course on remote-sensing technology, both of which will be held in Tokyo in 1992.

(Mr. Satoh, Japan)

In the area of telecommunications, from late 1991 through 1992, the Japanese Government will host three satellite communications engineering courses, each of one to two months' duration, in order to provide complete understanding of the operation and maintenance of the earth stations of the INTELSAT communications system.

Moreover, Japanese space-related organizations - namely, the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) and the Institute of Space and Aeronautical Science (ISAS), as well as the Science and Technology Agency - are actively participating in cooperative projects within the framework of the Space Agency Forum on the International Space Year (SAFISY) and are playing a leading role in two projects of the earth science panel and in four projects of the education and application panels.

In addition, various governmental and non-governmental organizations in Japan are organizing lectures, symposia, exhibitions, film presentations and other activities related to the theme of International Space Year, "Mission to Planet Earth", in order to promote public awareness of the Year and of the potential of space science and technology.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, I should like to express my delegation's confidence that the International Space Year will open new dimensions in international cooperation in the exploration and utilization of outer space.

Mr. YATSKIV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): For the first time, a representative of the Ukraine is speaking on behalf of his delegation at a session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. My first wish, therefore, is to express profound gratitude to all the States which, at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, supported the Ukraine's candidacy for election to membership of the Committee.

(Mr. Yatskiv, Ukrainian SSR)

The Ukrainian delegation offers you, Mr. Chairman, its sincere congratulations on your election to your responsible post. We believe that your profound knowledge and experience are gauges of skilful guidance of the work of the Committee.

The Ukraine intends to play an active part in the work of the Committee, on the basis of the Republic's political and economic interests, which flow from the provisions of the Declaration on State Sovereignty adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine in 1990.

For the more than three decades of the space era, in our country, and in the Ukraine, a powerful and well-organized scientific and industrial base has been created and corps of highly qualified engineers and designers, workers and technicians have been trained. At the head of scientific research and design and testing organizations - the creators of space and rocket technology - have stood major scientists and outstanding designers. We are proud that there is a whole constellation of oustanding scientists and specialists associated with the Ukraine whose names have become part of the history of astronautics. In the Ukraine, at various times, have lived, studied and worked the pioneers of rocket techology, Nikolay Kibal'chich and Yuriy Kondratyuk, the founding father of practical astronautics Sergey Korolev, the outstanding scientists and rocket technology designers Valentin Glushko, Vladimir Chelomey and Mikhail Yangel'.

Now that it has the necessary capability, the Ukraine is carrying out active work on exploring and utilizing space for peaceful purposes under very many international and all-Union programmes. We regularly inform the United Nations about the results of this work in our yearly reports, and the representative of the Ukraine recently took part in the work of the

(Mr. Yatskiv, Ukrainian SSR)

twenty-eight session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at which he presented a report on the Republic's capability in the area of space rocket technology.

Nevertheless, allow me to give a short overview of the fundamental directions of the Ukraine's scientific and design activities in space exploration. These can be split into three categories: space techniques and technology; space science - by which I mean scientific instrumentation and space science research; and perception of space - by which I mean education, information exchanges, dissemination of knowledge and so on. I shall give a few examples of each of these categories.

The major scientific and industrial combine Yuzhnoe, in Dnepropetrovsk, the scientific and technical complex of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, called the Paton Institute of Electrical Welding, the Academy of Sciences Institute of Metallurgy, and other organizations in Kiev, Khar'kov, Dnepropetrovsk and L'vov are taking part in developing and creating space techniques and technology in the Ukraine. In the Yuzhnoe design office, in cooperation with other enterprises in the Soviet Union's rocket and space complex, the basic rocket launcher COSMOS was created and the satellites in the COSMOS series were developed.

In all, since 1962, about 370 satellites have been launched under the COSMOS and INTERCOSMOS programmes. Since 1988, the space oceanographic system based on the new OKEAN device has been in trial operation. In 1989, the new rocket launcher ZENIT was completed, and in 1991 so was development of the new OKEAN-O satellite.

(Mr. Yatskiv, Ukrainian SSR)

In the offices of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine and other departments in the Soviet Union and the Ukraine, technology, apparatus and instruments are being developed to build, in open space, high-capacity antenna designs and solar-powered devices and apparatus for welding, soldering and applying coatings in space.

Between 1969 and 1984, the on-board equipment called Vulkan, Isparitel' and Yantar', which were developed at the Paton Institute of Electrical Welding, were tested on the SOYUZ and SALYUT orbital platforms, while a 12-metre girder assembly for supporting a solar array was recently tested on the MIR platform.

Many Ukrainian scientists and science departments took part in creating the EHNERGIYA rocket launcher and the BURAN space shuttle, as well as other space systems, in the line of work in the area of creating new materials and alloys, glues which resist cryogenic temperatures, refractory compounds and other science-of-materials research.

Turning now to scientific instrumentation and space science research, we can subdivide these into three types: first, research which takes place on board the spacecraft; secondly, research conducted from on board the spacecraft; and, finally, research which has as its aim the study of the space environment in the vicinity of the spacecraft, or of a space object - the Earth, the planets - from observations of the spacecraft, of its behaviour, its motion, or from signals radiated by the spacecraft.

Here, Ukrainian scientists have concentrated most attention on developing and creating devices to investigate space plasma, the Sun - in particular, its 160-minute oscillations - and devices to create new medicines, and on research into biology and apparatus to determine the characteristics of materials under microgravity.

(Mr. Yatskiv, Ukrainian SSR)

In recent years, intensive work has begun to develop new directions having to do with the theoretical foundations, methods and apparatus for remote Earth sensing from space.

As I hope to go into these problems in greater detail later, when we discuss the other items on the agenda, I shall limit myself to that short overview of the second direction in our space research.

(Mr. Yatskiv, Ukrainian SSR)

Finally, the third direction - the perception of space - affects the interests of mankind as a whole. Thirty years ago a new era began; space has since become an integral part of our lives, changing our understanding of our world. We think of the world as the environment of our civilization. We think of it as a place where many nations coexist. In Russian, the word "mir" has two meanings: "world" and "peace". Our understanding of the world as a place where we must all coexist irrespective of beliefs or social structures promotes a more protective attitude towards the Earth. Such protection can be possible only through international cooperation on space exploration.

Such cooperation did not always go smoothly, but now there has been a notable shift towards closer consultation and cooperation. That was made possible in part through educating the public about and disseminating knowledge on space exploration and informing the people about the tangible benefits that space exploration can provide now and in the near future.

We attach great importance to education and to dissemination of knowledge about space exploration, and therefore wholeheartedly endorse the General Assembly's decision on International Space Year. We have begun a series of activities related to the Year, for example the All-Union Conference of Museums of Space Exploration, held at Zhitomir, the home town of Sergei Korolov. The same city has opened a new exhibition on manned and unmanned interplanetary flight.

On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation, I wish to endorse the decision of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on further use of space technology for the benefit of all mankind.

The CHAIRMAN: I welcome Mr. Yatskiv to the Committee and wish him luck in our future discussions. I took careful note of his comments on the meaning of the Russian word "mir".

Mr. SZABO (Hungary): My delegation wishes to begin, Sir, by extending to you our warm congratulations on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its thirty-fourth session. It is indeed heartening to see a representative of our friendly neighbour Austria guiding the Committee's work. We are all the more gratified at seeing you here because we had the opportunity recently to experience your dynamic and effective leadership during the deliberations of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. My delegation is confident that your leadership will make a great contribution to what we believe will be a productive session. Allow us to assure you that you can count on the Hungarian delegation's full support as you carry out once again your important responsibilities.

Having mentioned the Disarmament Commission, we are of the opinion that the trend towards constructive cooperation seen in that Commission will certainly persist here, not only because the climate in international relations makes it possible but also because the subjects to be discussed here in Graz are somehow related to the general principles, ways and means applicable in disarmament fields and successfully discussed in the Disarmament Commission.

Without going into details now, we should like to mention the example of one of the Disarmament Commission's agenda items: "Objective information on military matters". It is obvious that the provision of objective information, confidence-building measures, openness and transparency are indispensable not only in the field of disarmament but in outer space activities as well. The main ideas, principles and methods of providing and exchanging objective information must hold true in this Committee as well if we are to do our best for the peaceful uses of outer space.

(Mr. Szabo, Hungary)

By referring to the Disarmament Commission I do not mean to imply that we are to deal with disarmament issues here in this Committee. We would be failing in our real duty if we were to do so. We strongly believe that it is sufficient for us in this Committee to express our concern at the threat of the extension of the arms race into outer space and to spare no effort to harness outer space for peaceful purposes. We should leave it to disarmament forums to address specific questions of disarmament. It is first and foremost those forums and States with a major space capability that can successfully contribute to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, which in turn is a sine qua non for peaceful cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space.

There is well-founded hope that the spirit of cooperation will prevail at this session too, thanks inter alia to the sweeping and extensive changes that have taken place recently throughout the world, and especially in Europe, including in our country. We are convinced that those changes have created new conditions for all of us. In the world, and first and foremost in Europe, division has been replaced by general rapprochement. The same can be seen in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space as well; we are witnessing increasing cooperation between national and international space programmes, which over the years have developed from comet research to the development and use of space stations.

The political renewal and new social structure of our country also demand rationality, openness and an emphasis on mutual interests and advantages in every field as opposed to the tendency to separate and isolate ourselves from each other, as had been the case in earlier decades. This new situation increases our opportunities, but at the same time poses a great challenge for countries with conditions similar to those of Hungary.

(Mr. Szabo, Hungary)

In our opinion, those increased opportunities will make it possible for us - our intellectual and financial resources permitting - to be capable of establishing rational and useful cooperation with our new partners, and of participating in accomplishing tasks on which we have not worked in the past. In that connection, we consider the conclusion of the space cooperation agreement signed by the representatives of the Hungarian Government and the European Space Agency on 10 April at Venice to be a milestone.

(Mr. Szabo, Hungary)

Undoubtedly, all this is of the highest importance. It means inter alia that neither political nor any other factors limit our choices in looking for partners or employing in important research work scientists and engineers who have not yet participated in space research but who are capable of doing the job and who have the professional skill to do it. On that basis, we expect to be able to use our experience and resources more effectively in the future.

The new challenge makes it imperative for us first of all to assess in detail the space research we have carried out to date and, taking into account the new circumstances, to decide which tasks in which fields can be undertaken by the Hungarian space research community. Moreover, in the future attention should be paid to the practical utilization of the results gained from space research. A greater role should also be given to spin-off benefits, which could make a considerable contribution to progress in Hungarian industry.

Possessing conditions and possibilities proportionate to its moderate size, Hungary can continue space research activities only in close cooperation with various national and international organizations.

In assessing the results and experience we have gained in the peaceful uses of outer space, in particular exploration of the planets and interplanetary space, remote sensing, space medicine and biology and satellite meteorology, my delegation feels that our partners view Hungarian space scientists as reliable and fair partners. Therefore, we are approaching our task with optimism and enthusiasm, since there are several indications that our former and recent partners have the sincere intention of inviting us to participate in their significant programmes. I should like to mention only some of them here. We have been invited to send groups of Hungarian experts

(Mr. Szabo, Hungary)

to participate in the Cassini mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and in the Soviet MARS-94 mission. The prospects are promising for the Hungarian space furnace based on new technological solutions. It seems to us that in addition to being utilized in the INTERCOSMOS programme, this may also be used in materials processing experiments by NASA. Our specialists in remote sensing have taken the first steps towards joining programmes aimed at solving certain environmental problems in Europe, on which the National Centre for Space Research (CNES) has given considerable help.

Naturally, we intend to continue and develop our fruitful cooperation with our traditional partners, namely the member States of the European Space Agency and of the reviving INTERCOSMOS programme. In addition we are endeavouring to explore and establish new possibilities for cooperation.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to state its position with regard to the draft principles on the use of nuclear power sources. We have received two documents: the working paper submitted by Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom, and document A/AC.105/C.1//L.176 submitted by the United States. My delegation regards both documents as a significant contribution to the successful solution of the problem of nuclear power sources. The first document is important because it proposes extending to all users responsibility and liability for damages. The second, submitted by the United States, is aimed at preventing legal regulation from blocking the use of developed and reliable technical devices in the peaceful utilization of outer space.

Last but not least, we think it necessary to underline the importance of International Space Year. As we said last session, we hope the 1992

(Mr. Szabo, Hungary)

International Space Year will represent a milestone in working out more effective machinery for worldwide cooperation, which could play a significant role in solving the global economic and ecological problems of Planet Earth. In our view, the meaningful celebration of International Space Year could produce significant results, especially in the environmental field, since its efforts will be complemented and facilitated by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which is being planned for 1992 as well.

Mr. YIN Yubiao (China) (interpretation from Chinese): At the outset, Sir, I should like on behalf of the Chinese delegation to welcome you and to extend our congratulations to you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Committee. As a representative of Austria you have been associated with the Committee for many years and have had good cooperation with all of us. I trust that under your wise guidance the Committee will make new progress in its work. In the meantime, I should like to express our appreciation and thanks to Mr. Peter Jankowitsch for his efforts in presiding over the work of the Committee. I trust that his valuable contribution to the Committee will not be forgotten.

I wish also to express my thanks to the Government of Austria, the province of Styria and the city of Graz for the hospitality they have extended to us.

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the first manned space flight. I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to mankind's first envoy to space, Mr. Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union.

As Mr. Jankowitsch pointed out in his statement, various countries have made great achievements during the past year in the exploration and use of

(Mr. Yin Yubiao, China)

outer space and in their space technology. In the field of manned space flight, a historic record was set: on 2 December 1990 the United States space shuttle Columbia was launched successfully with seven astronauts on board. Two hours later, two Soviet cosmonauts and a Japanese correspondent entered space on board the SOYUZ TM spacecraft and were greeted by the two cosmonauts already on board the orbital station MIR. There were thus 12 people in space at the same time, which set the record for the number of simultaneous space travelers. That not only represented Soviet and United States scientific achievement, but also redounded to the glory of all mankind.

Since the last session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, China has made progress in all areas of its space activities. On 16 July 1990 at the Xichang launch site, China successfully carried out the first experimental launch of the LM-2E strap-on launch vehicle with four liquid fuel boosters, successfully propelling into space a Chinese load model satellite and the first Pakistani experimental satellite. The total payload the LM-2E is capable of carrying into low orbit is 9 tonnes, which demonstrates that China possesses the capability of launching heavy satellites.

(Mr. Yin Yubiao, China)

On 3 September 1990 the Chinese FY-1 meteorological satellite was launched from the Taiyuan launching site by an LM-4 rocket. The satellite has four visible channels and one thermal infra-red channel for obtaining cloud atlas and other meteorological data of the Earth's surface.

On 15 October 1990 China successfully launched by an LM-2 rocket its twelfth recoverable remote-sensing satellite from the Jiuquan launching site. It carried out 67 load experiments concerning life and materials science - including China's first animal load experiment - which provided important data for the study of the changes of life and materials characteristics in space.

In January 1991 China successfully launched two sounding rockets in Hainan Island, which is important for the study of physical characteristics in air space of low latitudes.

China invariably attaches great importance to the development of satellite applications. The five communication satellites launched by China and around 30,000 land receiving stations constitute the national educational and cultural exchange television networks, which have played an important role in the training of about 1 million teachers from primary and high schools. Using data provided by the 12 remote-sensing satellites and remote-sensing data received by the Beijing Landsat Receiving Station, China has carried out a comprehensive survey of its mineral resources deposits, urban construction, seashore and beaches, as well as the forest resources in northern China, covering around 4 million square kilometres. At present, China is developing its large-capacity communications satellite, geostationary meterological satellite and earth resources satellite.

(Mr. Yin Yubiao, China)

The Government of China has always supported the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and has made its contribution to the programme by providing scholarships and holding international symposiums jointly with the United Nations. Moreover, it attaches great importance to International Space Year and related activity. At the last session of the Committee, China submitted a working paper on the Year. The Chinese preparatory committee on International Space Year has organized a number of activities, including symposiums and exhibitions, and will continue to organize various activities in the run-up to the Year.

With regard to the ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, the Committee has discussed this issue on a priority basis for a number of years. Owing to the divergence of views among countries, no substantial progress has been achieved in the discussion. However, the very fact that the Committee has discussed this question reflects the international community's concern about the question, and demonstrates to a certain extent, that the Committee could play an important role in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes through its work in the scientific, technical and legal aspects.

Quite a few colleagues have commented year after year in the Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We understand their positions, because the peaceful uses of outer space are inseparably linked to the non-peaceful uses, and the further promotion and strengthening of the peaceful uses of outer space require effective measures to prevent an extension of the arms race into outer space. The delegation of China stands ready to join the common efforts of other delegations in exploring practicable ways and means through full consultations.

(Mr. Yin Yubiao, China)

Regarding the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, the delegation of China will offer specific comments in separate statements at a later stage. I should just like to express my satisfaction here with the progress achieved by the two Subcommittees at their last sessions. In recent years the use of nuclear power sources in outer space has been an important item in the two Subcommittees. Various delegations have exerted great efforts in this regard. My delegation gives special attention to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and hopes that new progress will be made in the informal consultations on the item during the present session. It is willing to join the efforts in seeking positive results.

The outer space Treaty affirmed the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In the past 30 years or more, the development of space technology has brought enormous benefit to all mankind, particularly to countries with significant space capabilities. For the purpose of promoting the exploration and use of outer space and the development of space technology, international cooperation should be further strengthened, including cooperation between space countries and non-space countries, as well as between non-space countries themselves, particularly in technological exchanges and transfers of technology. China is a developing country, and its capabilities for using outer space are limited at present. However, the Government of China is willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with other countries so as to make its contribution to mankind in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

Mr. TAIANA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to speak on behalf of the delegations of the Republic of Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

First, I wish to express the gratitude of our delegations to Mr. Peter Jankowitsch for his outstanding work at the head of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I take this opportunity also to express our satisfaction at your election, Mr. Chairman. Our delegations have already had the opportunity to appreciate your intensive and effective work in the multilateral field, and you have our full support in the work which we have now undertaken.

This is also an appropriate time to express the appreciation and gratitude of our delegations to the Federal Government of Austria, represented by Mr. Mock, for its hospitality. Moreover, we express our thanks to the Governor of Styria and to the Mayor of the city of Graz.

The era in which we live highlights the growing importance of multilateral diplomacy. The achievements and possibilities of such diplomacy should encourage our activities in the exploration and use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes. The general framework of our activity is outlined in article I of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. It would therefore be of use to reiterate these main concepts.

Article I lays down:

"The exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind.

(Mr. Taiana, Argentina)

"Outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies.

"There shall be freedom of scientific investigation in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and States shall facilitate and encourage international cooperation in such investigation."

Our delegations have repeatedly supported the principles I have just referred to. Therefore, we feel that it is essential progressively to prepare an international legal order adequately governing space activities, bearing in mind the interests of all countries and, in particular, as I have said, the interests of the developing countries.

(Mr. Taiana, Argentina)

In that framework, both delegations make special reference to the proposal submitted by nine countries at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.2/L.182). The specific purpose of that proposal is to ensure the practical development of the principle contained in article I of the Treaty on space.

We believe that it is essential to make a few comments on two fields closely linked to space activity: research and international cooperation. The complexity and specific nature of space research are becoming increasingly clear. Its frontier is infinite, and mankind is still taking its first steps in perfecting space activity. Huge material and intellectual resources should be invested in this challenge for mankind. International cooperation in space activity is increasingly vital, as such action makes it possible to streamline efforts, in particular for developing countries. That cooperation can be seen as a real complementarity of efforts, not a one-way transfer of technology between those countries which dominate space technology and those which do not possess it. It will be a wide-ranging cooperative exchange. That was the basic idea which led the President of Argentina and the President of Brazil to sign the Presidential Declaration on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1989. Brazil and Argentina are among those countries which for several decades have endorsed progressive programmes for the peaceful use of outer space.

The determination to use outer space for peaceful purposes, outlined in our programmes, is and has been directed towards achieving a level of development enabling us not only to accede to space exploration, but also to use the spin-off benefits of this activity for the economic, social and cultural well-being of our peoples.

(Mr. Taiana, Argentina)

In a world where technology plays an increasingly important role, Argentina and Brazil are gaining their own scientific and technological bases, which enable them to take part in the rapid development of space knowledge and applications.

Our delegations maintain that international cooperation in this field should be on the broadest possible bases. We call for an equitable international legal order, which will ensure the use of space technology exclusively for peaceful purposes and which at the same time would allow for generous international cooperation without any arbitrary restrictions.

It is a fact that in the world today the spin-off benefits of space activity are available to a relatively limited sector of the international community. Our countries believe that the time has come to set up a multilateral system, which will increasingly channel the benefits of space technologies to all countries.

Some of the guidelines which we feel could contribute to that multilateral system are contained in the document I have referred to. That document was submitted by Argentina, Brazil and other countries. It deals with international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of space. I should point out that the document was submitted by these delegations in their national capacity, and that it is open to universal accession.

We reaffirm that the spirit which inspires both our delegations in the field of international cooperation is to ensure that spin-offs of scientific progress are shared to the benefit and in the interest of all countries regardless of their level of economic and scientific development. We believe that the most appropriate means for discussing the best way to share these

(Mr. Taiana, Argentina)

benefits is multilateral mechanisms and world forums, in particular, the United Nations. We feel that it is timely therefore to call upon the Committee to implement new ways of strengthening its structures with a view to establishing satisfactory international cooperation.

Both Argentina and Brazil are firmly determined to continue to work together in order to give practical effect to these proposals. They are working together with a high level of mutual trust, demonstrated by the fact that both Governments have instructed our delegations to speak here on this occasion with a single voice.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.